

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
 Thursday, April 14th, 2022
 Rev. Gerry Gallant

Maundy Thursday
 Maundy Thursday
 John 13:1–17, 31b–35

Welcome

Announcements

Covenant God,
 we bless and thank you for the gift of the meal
 that Jesus commanded us to share.
 We thank you for this sign of your presence with us
 and your love for the world that Jesus came to redeem.
 We long to feast with Jesus in the fullness of the coming kingdom.
 May our worship today deepen our anticipation of that glory. Amen.

Call to Worship

*I will bless the LORD at all times;
 his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

**My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
 let the humble hear and be glad.;**

*O magnify the LORD with me,
 and let us exalt his name together.*

**I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
 and delivered me from all my fears.**

*O taste and see that the LORD is good;
 happy are those who take refuge in him*

Prayer of Adoration

Holy God, your Son Jesus came as a servant
 to wash away our pride and feed us with the bread of life.
 We praise you for inviting us
 to serve one another without pride,

to forgive one another as we have been forgiven,
and to feast at his table as members of one household. Amen

Opening Hymn # 175: “Hallelujah, What a Saviour” (V 1, 5)

Man of Sorrows! what a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious king,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew His song we'll sing:
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken:
We confess that we have failed to fulfill your will for us.
We betray our neighbors, desert our friends,
and run in fear when we should be loyal.
Though you have bound yourself to us,
we have not bound ourselves to you.
God, have mercy on us weak and willful people.
Lead us once again to your table,
and unite us to Christ,
who is the bread of life
and the vine from which we grow in grace.
To Christ be praise forever. Amen**

Assurance of Pardon

We have seen and do testify
that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.
God abides in those who confess
that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.
So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.
God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them.
Brothers and sisters in Christ,
the Jesus we remember tonight is the Savior of the world.

In Christ we are forgiven.
 And through him God abides with even us.
 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.
 For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,
 Forever and ever. Amen.**

Music Ministry: "And We Remember" by Choir

Prayer for illumination ()

O Lord, you have given us your Word
 for a light to shine upon our path.
 Grant us so to meditate on that Word,
 and to follow its teaching
 that we may find in it the light
 that shines more and more
 until the perfect day.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Scripture

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have

no share with me.”⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.”¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you?”¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Sermon

Why do we gather together for Maundy Thursday? Why is it we celebrate this particular day? Many people know this was the day of the last supper, but why was this a day that was celebrated in Jesus’s day?

The importance of Maundy Thursday lies in the Jewish holiday of Passover, a holiday that finds its roots early in the scriptures; in the book of Exodus, where the people of God are instructed in how to take a lamb, care for it, and then sacrifice it. How they are to spread blood of the lamb upon the posts of their doorways, so that when God passes his judgement on the people of Egypt, those who are his faithful followers will be passed over.

The celebration of Passover is one that God has instructed the Israelites to continue to recognize and celebrate on the 15th day of the first month of the Hebrew calendar. This celebration of Passover is what Jesus and his disciples have journeyed to Jerusalem to observe and celebrate with one another. However, this year instead of being one who partakes in the observance of Passover with the preparation and sacrifice of a lamb, Jesus will become our Passover lamb, sacrificed upon the cross for our sins.

In the first century many Christians still tried to observe Passover in alignment with the Jewish tradition which they had come from. However, because of the complications of

following the Roman calendar versus the Hebrew calendar Passover would jump around to all different days of the week. Others felt it was more important that the Passover always be observed in relation to the celebration of resurrection Sunday. So, the celebration of the Last Supper was held on to different days in different traditions, just as it is in some denominations today.

To further complicate things, the ancient way of counting was inclusive, meaning the day you started counting was counted as day one, not day zero. And the Hebrew day started at sunset and not sunrise. So, when we try to figure out the three days and three nights that the scripture speaks of the solution naturally led those of the Christian Faith to typically celebrate the last supper on Maundy Thursday. Three days and three nights before the resurrection on we know of on Sunday morning.

In the modern world, Passover has become Easter to many Christians, a season where we celebrate something new, not just the Passover in Egypt and the mercy God has on his people then. We do not just celebrate the sacrifice of the Lamb of God that was sacrificed so that the debts of our sins were paid, we also celebrate the resurrection of the lamb.

We also celebrate something else that occurred at that meal.

John 13:12-17

¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

The washing of a guest’s feet was customary in the homes of people in the region. People wore sandals and when they walked along the streets it was only natural that their feet would become dirty with the dust and other things found on a busy road.

In the modern era of Christianity, the number of churches that recognize the importance of this day is dwindling. Yet there are still places that take Jesus’s command to do as I have done literally. In some churches people will wash one another’s feet, in other churches they will wash one another hands. We are called, actually we are commanded to obey this day, the word Maundy comes from the Latin word mandatum, or mandate, we have been mandated by our Lord to be of service to one another. Mandated to show our love for our God and our love for one another by serving one another while we are on earth.

The washing of one another's feet that was done at the last supper was meant to serve as a reminder for every Christians of what it means to serve one another. To remind us of the type of leadership we are to have in the church. There is no master or slave, no rich or poor, no Jew or Gentile, we are called to be servants of all.

In the ancient church, the three days between Thursday night and Sunday sunrise became known as the Paschal Triduum, the great three days. It was composed of The Great Fast, no food to be eaten on Good Friday or Holy Saturday, The Great Silence, all non-essential talk was avoided while people considered the sacrifice being made on the cross and The Great Prayer, people would stay in the church around the clock in prayer. This would all begin on the evening of Maundy Thursday and finish with the Resurrection Service on Sunday.

Today we celebrate Maundy Thursday differently, we gather in praise and worship today to remember the Last Supper, to remember the institution of the sacrament of the Holy Communion by our Lord. We celebrate Maundy Thursday to remember the betrayal of Jesus by Judas for a mere thirty silvers, to remember the three denials of Christ by Peter, and the desertion of the Disciples after Jesus's arrest.

Tonight, as we partake in the Eucharist together, we celebrate the death of the Lamb of God, and the mandate he gave us to serve one another in life. We are reminded that we are loved by God so much that his Son was born a man and lived with us, served us while he was among us and died upon the cross for us.

A Communion Prayer

O Lord God, heavenly Father,
 we praise and thank you for your grace
 that through your Son Jesus Christ
 you established this supper
 in which we eat his body and drink his blood.
 By your Holy Spirit, help us
 to use this gift worthily,
 to confess and forsake our sins,
 to confidently believe that we are forgiven through Christ,
 and to grow in faith and love day by day
 until we come at last to the joy of eternal salvation,
 through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
 Amen.

Source: Veit Dietrich, 1506-1549

Music Ministry: "Behold the Lamb" by Lynda Bradford

Communion

Declaration of God's Invitation and Promises

*We gather around this table,
to remember the love, care and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
Come, for all this is prepared for you.
Come, because our Lord Jesus invites you to share the bread and the cup
and remember him.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Opening

Children:

Why do we give thanks and praise before this table?

All:

We give thanks for God's work of creation, liberation, and salvation.

Minister:

It is indeed right, our duty and delight, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O holy Lord, eternal God. You created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them; you made us in your own image; and in countless ways you show us your mercy. Therefore, with choirs of angels and the whole company of heaven, we worship and adore your glorious name, joining our voices in their unending praise:

All:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Minister:

All glory and blessing are yours, O holy God, for in your mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ. He took our human nature and suffered death on the cross for our redemption. There he made a perfect sacrifice for the sins for the whole world. We praise you that before he suffered and died, our Savior gave us this holy sacrament and commanded us to continue it until he

comes again.

Children:

Why do we eat bread at this table?

Minister:

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Children:

Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

Minister:

The same night Jesus took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Children:

What do we remember at this table?

Minister:

We remember God's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All]:

**Dying, you destroyed our death;
rising, you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Minister:

Merciful God, pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that in eating and drinking we may be made one with Christ and one another.

All:

Amen.

Minister:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, now and forever.

All:

Amen.

Thanksgiving to God

*Holy One, Creator of heaven and earth,
you spoke and order emerged from chaos,
creation grew from the formless void,
and light broke into the darkness.
You formed us in your image and called us to be your people.
You spoke words of law and love to shape us into a community.
Through the prophets, you called us to do justice and live in peace.
In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh and lived among us.
In Jesus, we saw your full glory.
He shared our human nature; he lived and died as one of us.
He healed the sick, ate and drank with outcasts,
taught us to follow his way,
and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom.
We give you thanks for Christ, the gift of your love and grace.
Pour out your Spirit upon us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
May they become the body and blood of Christ for us.
Nourished by them, may we become the body of Christ,
serving you in the world you love..*

The Apostles Creed (Affirmation of Faith)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. AMEN.**

The Passing of the Peace

Thanks be to God: Christ makes us one.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you

Preparation of the Bread and Cup

We celebrate this feast in obedience to Christ's example and mandate.

(Bread Breaking)

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread,

and after giving thanks to God,

he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

(Cup Lifting)

In the same way he took the cup, saying,

"This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,

shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,

do this in remembrance of me."

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,

you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord

until he comes.

Invitation

Congregation of Jesus Christ,

*the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him
and trust in him alone for their salvation.*

All who are truly sorry for their sins,

who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus

as their Savior,

and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord

are now invited to come with gladness

to the table of the Lord.

Taking of the Elements

Take and eat.

This is the body of Christ, which is given for you.

Do this, remembering him.

*This cup is the new covenant
sealed by Christ's blood,
which was shed that the sins of many
might be forgiven.
Drink from it, all of you*

Response of Praise and Prayer

We thank and praise you, Jesus Christ,
for these gifts of bread and wine,
signs of your great sacrifice for us
and, by your Spirit's presence and power,
a means for us to commune with you.
We eat this bread and drink this cup
to refresh our hearts,
to strengthen our faith,
and to rouse our hope
that soon we shall take our places at your heavenly banquet
to eat and drink with you and all you have redeemed.
For all your gifts, we bless you, Lord.
Above all, your heavenly food,
pardoning grace, and life-giving Word
motivate us to sing that you are good. Amen

Washing of Hands

On the night of his arrest, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment
and set an example for them by washing their feet.
In this act of service, he reminded his followers to serve one another.
Therefore, you are invited to be washed and to wash one another,
to be served and to serve each another.
To remember your baptism, and your calling to follow Christ's example.

(Washing of Hands)

Invitation to Offering

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3). We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. This note from our treasurer:

E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. standrewspert offering@gmail.com If you have an Offering Envelope #, please include it in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (e.g., Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Offertory Prayer ()

Closing Hymn # 177: "What Wondrous Love Is This" (V 1, 4)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
 to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
 to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
 and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
 and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
 and through eternity I'll sing on.

Prayers for the People & Pastoral Prayer

God of love,
 it is because of your immense love for us that
 you stooped to be our servant and willingly suffered to give us life.
 For that love we give you thanks.
 We also praise you for the way that love is evidenced
 in creation . . .
 in our community . . .
 in our church . . .
 in our lives . . .
 in the events of this Holy Week . . .
 God of love,
 you have given us a new command to love each other.
 Help us to show that love

in our care of creation . . .
to the nations of the world . . .
to our nation and its leaders . . .
in this community . . .
through the church universal . . .
through this local church in its ministry . . .
to persons with particular needs . . .
In all our thoughts and actions
may we be your servants and reflect your love.
We pray this in the name of your servant Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen

Benediction

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father,
who loved us and through grace gave us
eternal comfort and good hope,
comfort your hearts and strengthen them
in every good work and word. Amen.